

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 042393

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE: JPBECKER:RF
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----- 042350

O R 252120Z FEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042393

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, EEWT, PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: MEETINGS WITH GDR OFFICIALS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN
EAST EUROPEAN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS CONFERENCE

REFERENCE: BERLIN 5271

1. WHILE PRESENCE OF US OFFICIALS AT ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL
OFFICERS CONFERENCE PROVIDES OBVIOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR
MEETINGS WITH GDR OFFICIALS, DEPARTMENT WOULD PREFER TO
AVOID SUCH ENCOUNTERS AT THIS TIME.

2. DURING THIS PERIOD IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GDR, WE
ARE TAKING A MEASURED APPROACH TRYING TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS
WHERE POSSIBLE AND TO DEFINE AREAS OF BOTH AGREEMENT AND
DISAGREEMENT. WE WISH TO AVOID SENDING ANY FALSE SIGNALS
TO GDR, PARTICULARLY ON TRADE MATTERS, WHICH ARE OF PRIME
INTEREST TO EAST GERMANS AND THEREFORE REPRESENT
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PAGE 02 STATE 042393

IMPORTANT BARGAINING CHIPS FOR US.

3. MEETING BETWEEN US TRADE OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON AND
GDR COUNTERPARTS IN EAST BERLIN COULD LEAD GDR TO BELIEVE
THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO MOVE TO TRADE TALKS, WHICH WE ARE
NOT. DEPARTMENT WOULD THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT WHILE DOWNEY

AND/OR TREICHEL MEETING WITH APPROPRIATE GDR OFFICIAL
(BERLIN 5265) MIGHT BE USEFUL, MEETINGS WITH OTHER US
OFFICIALS WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME. KISSINGER

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